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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Northrup III et al.

Examiner: Unknown

Serial No.: 09/800,613

Group Art Unit: 3731

Filed: March 7, 2001

Docket: M104.120.102

Title: EVERTING STAPLE DEVICES AND METHODS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

The Examiner's attention is directed to co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/548,820, filed April 13, 2000, which is directed to related technical subject matter. The identification of this U.S. Patent Application is not to be construed as a waiver of secrecy as to that application now or upon issuance of the present application as a patent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the cited application and the art cited therein during examination.

Information Disclosure Statement

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Respectfully submitted,

DICKE, BILLIG & CZAJA, P.A.

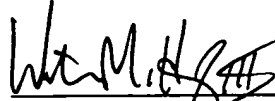
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Please grant any extension of time necessary for entry; charge any fee due to Deposit Account No. 500471.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first-class mail with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231 on this 8th day of May, 2002.

By


William M. Hienz III